

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 27, 2006. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to more clearly define what Applicant regards as his invention, and purely formal changes have been made to Claims 1 and 6. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The specification has been amended to conform the summary of invention section to the amended claims.

The Office Action incorrectly states that the September 22, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. As acknowledged in the April 8, 2004 Office Action, the IDS was in compliance with the rules in effect at the time it was filed and, indeed, the references identified in that IDS were considered by the Examiner (see initialed copy of IDS attached to April 8, 2004 Office Action). It is, therefore, not understood why the present Office Action states that the references have not been considered. Moreover, the version of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 referred to in the present Office Action is not the same as the version in effect on September 22, 2000 (see attached copy of 37 C.F.R. 1.98 in effect in 2000). It is also noted that no Form PTO-1449 is required with respect to patent applications listed in an IDS (*see*, MPEP § 609 III.D).

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,170,428 (Watanabe) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,699 (Kawasaki).

Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to perform ring-type multiple-address transmission, the apparatus including a registration unit, a start selector, a ring-type multiple-address reception transfer selector, and a controller. The registration unit registers

a sub-address signal and a communication specification so as to correspond to a memory box.

The start selector selects a start of a ring-type multiple-address transmission. The ring-type multiple-address reception transfer selector selects a transfer of a ring-type multiple-address reception. The controller performs a control operation so that, when the start of ring-type multiple-address transmission has been selected, transmitter information is added, and, when the transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, the transmitter information is not added. The communication apparatus performs ring-type multiple-address transmission/reception of received image data, and the transmitter information is added to the received image data as image data when the start of ring-type multiple address transmission has been selected.

Watanabe relates to a data communication apparatus. Fig. 1 is a diagram for explaining the repeating multiple-address transmission of Watanabe. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a facsimile apparatus as a repeater station for performing the repeating multiple-address transmission; 2 is a facsimile apparatus for requesting the repeating multiple-address transmission; 3 is a facsimile apparatus for receiving the repeating data from the facsimile apparatus 1; 4 is a data communication network which is used for only data communication or for the communication of digital data; and 5 is a telephone network which is used for the communication of voice and data.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a facsimile apparatus. Reference numeral 6 denotes a CPU to control the whole apparatus; 7 is an operation unit to input a telephone number and the like; 8 is a read unit to read an original document; 9 is a record unit; 10 is an image memory to store image data upon transmission and reception; 11 is a selection signal

transmission unit to the network and a transmission/reception unit of a procedure signal and an image signal; 12 is a detection circuit of a facsimile call signal which is incoming from the data communication network; 13 is a detection circuit of a call signal which is incoming from the telephone network; 14 is a hook detection circuit to detect the state (ON or OFF) of the receiver of a telephone set which is connected to the facsimile apparatus; 15 is a CML relay to switch between the transmission/reception unit 11 and a main telephone set 16 or among the detection circuits 12 to 14; 16 is the main telephone set; 17 is a circuit; 18 is a ROM in which a control program is stored; 19 is a RAM in which various kinds of telephone numbers of a partner for permitting the repeating multiple-address transmission, repeating multiple-address reception station, and the like are stored; and 20 is a battery to back up the content of the RAM 19.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Watanabe that would teach or suggest “a registration unit, arranged to register a sub-address signal and a communication specification so as to correspond to a memory box,” as recited in Claim 1. The Office Action cites Fig. 2, item 9; column 2, lines 48-68 and column 3, lines 1-4 as disclosing this feature.

Applicant disagrees. The cited passage merely discusses the components of a facsimile machine, including a recording unit 9 and a RAM 19, in which various kinds of telephone numbers of a partner for permitting the repeating multiple-address transmission, repeating multiple-address reception station and the like are stored. However, Applicant submits that this passage does not even hint of “a registration unit, arranged to register a sub-address signal and a communication specification so as to correspond to a memory box,” as recited in Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record, including Kawasaki, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed

above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claim 6 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 4 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to perform ring-type multiple-address transmission, the apparatus including a memory, a registration unit, a transfer unit, an identification unit, and a processor. The memory stores received image data, the registration unit registers a sub-address signal and a communication specification so as to correspond to a memory box, and the transfer unit is arranged to transfer the received image data stored in the memory. The identification unit identifies whether or not the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to the ring-type multiple-address processing. The processor causes the transfer unit to transfer the received image data without adding transmitter information if the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to the ring-type multiple-address processing, and causes the transfer unit to transfer the received image data with the transmitter information added thereto if the received image data is not data assigned to be subjected to the ring-type multiple-address processing, the transmitter information being added to the received image data as image data.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Watanabe that would teach or suggest “a registration unit, arranged to register a sub-address signal and a communication specification so as to correspond to a memory box,” as recited in Claim 4.

A review of the other art of record, including Kawasaki, has failed to reveal

anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 4.

Independent Claim 9 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 4, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 4.

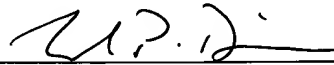
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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